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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hidetoshi ICHIOKA
U.S. Serial No.: Filed Concurrently Herewith
International Appln. No.: PCT/JP00/04552
International Filing Date: 7 July 2000
Priority Date Claimed: 7 July 1999
Title of Invention: SIGNAL PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS


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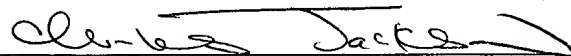
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 111)
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

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